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Rel. No. 7-5-2006
July 7, 2006

'BULLDOG BRIGADE' WELCOMES JOCZ AS NEW COMMANDER

By Anna Morelock
Staff writer

The "Bulldog" Brigade welcomed its new commander, Col. Norbert B. Jocz, in a change of command ceremony June 27 on Cavalry Parade Field.

To start off a ceremony steeped in military tradition, Pfc. Charles Sample and his mount, Dollar, with the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, delivered two dozen red and yellow roses to be presented to the outgoing and incoming commanders' wives, respectively.

After the invocation, a shot from the cannon and the arrival of the official party, a half-track rumbled across the field to convey Jocz, Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general of 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, and outgoing "Bulldog" Commander Col. David Bishop in a review of the troops.

"'Bulldog Brigade,' you look magnificent and I feel honored to stand in your ranks," Jocz said in his remarks after receiving the brigade's colors from Hardy.

In his speech, Bishop thanked the Soldiers of 3rd Bde. for their service under his command and for leaving Iraq better than they found it.

"I now know what it's like to walk among heroes," he said of his time in Iraq with the brigade, which returned from its deployment in January.

Bishop, who has commanded the "Bulldogs" since 2004, will head to the Pentagon for his next assignment.

Jocz comes to the "Bulldogs" with a variety of armor and cavalry assignments behind him.

His past assignments include Germany, Korea, the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., Test and Evaluation Command at Fort Hood, Texas, and Forces Command at Fort McPherson, Ga.

Jocz was deployed in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm during his assignment to the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star Medal. He also has earned the Ranger Tab, Parachutist Badge and Air Assault Badge.

Jocz and his wife, Lourdes, have two children, Miros and Mia.